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BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T



of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1971

and incorporating the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
BRIERFIELD,  
Lancashire.

May, 1972.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the  
Brierfield Urban District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration, the following report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health Administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1971.

It includes various matters which have affected Public Health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the annual records may, so far as practicable be continuous and complete.


I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. BARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

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## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1971 according to the Rate Book was 2,952, the rateable value being £189.065 and the sum represented by a penny rate of £1805.

Social conditions were generally quite good. There was no serious unemployment although one factory making bottle tops closed down. The main industry is cotton. Other industry includes plastics.

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### POPULATION

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1971 is 7,580.

#### BIRTHS

125 Live births belonging to the District occurred during 1971; 72 males and 53 females. Of these, nine, four males and five females, were illegitimate. Crude rate per 1,000 home population, 12.4.

One still birth was recorded. Rate per 1,000 total births, eight.

Comparative particulars with regard to live births over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Total Live Births	125	138	135	121	125
Crude Birth Rate per 1000 estim.population	16.5	18.8	18.5	16.6	17.2
Adjusted Rate	18.3	20.9	20.5	18.4	19.1

Two deaths occurred of infants under one year, the infant mortality rate being 16 per 1,000 live births.

Previous Infant Mortality rates:-

<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
29	30	NIL	8.0	NIL

The Neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under four weeks per 1000 live births) was eight per 1000 live births.

The early Neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under one week per 1000 total live births) was nil.

The Perinatal mortality rate, stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths was eight.

#### DEATHS

94 Deaths belonging to the District occurred during 1971 as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths within the Urban District	24	21	45
Deaths outside the Urban District in Hospitals, Institutions etc.	23	26	49
	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>94</u>

Death Rate (Deaths per 1000 home population - crude rate) 12.4.

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Total Deaths .	94	103	88	88	109
Crude Death Rate per 1000 estim. population	12.4	14.0	12.1	12.1	13.6
Adjusted Rate	12.4	14.0	12.5	12.2	13.9

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred, also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1971.

Cause of Death at different periods of life during 1971.

Columns for the ages 5-14 yrs: 15-24 yrs: have been omitted as no death occurred in these age groups.

Cause of Death	Sex	All Ages	U/4 Wks	1/12 to 1	Age in years							
					1- 4	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & Over	
Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Anaemias	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Other diseases of Nervous System	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Hypertensive Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	4	
	F	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	10	
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	3	
Other diseases of Circulatory System	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Pneumonia	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	
Bronchitis/Emphysema	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	
Congenital Anomalies	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
All other Accidents	M	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	47	-	-	1	1	1	3	10	10	21	
	F	47	1	1	-	-	-	2	7	10	26	

## T U B E R C U L O S I S

There has been an increase in the numbers on the register during the year. There were two additional pulmonary cases and six non-pulmonary.

### CASES ON THE REGISTER AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1971

On the Register at the end of December, 1971, there were 32 cases of Tuberculosis (19 Pulmonary and 13 Non-Pulmonary) as follows:

	5- 15	15- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	Over 65	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	6	-	4	3	1	3	19
Non-Pulmonary	3	3	3	3	-	1	-	13
	5	9	3	7	3	2	3	32

All these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer and no direct information is available about the number of cases receiving allowances.

### VENEREAL DISEASE

The nearest Clinic is at Burnley and any cases discovered are advised to attend this Clinic.

### ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

There are no special workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

### LABORATORY WORK

This work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Meadow Street, Preston, as and when necessary.

The Lancashire County Council provides and maintains the following:-

<u>AMBULANCE SERVICE:</u>	The Urban District is served by ambulance and sitting cars.
<u>CHILD WELFARE SERVICE:</u>	The Infant Welfare Clinic for the Urban District is held weekly.
<u>MIDWIFERY SERVICE:</u>	There is one District Midwife assigned to Brierfield who resides within the District.

### SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Per 1,000 Estimated Population</u>	
	<u>Crude Live Birth Rate</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate</u>
Mean of five years 1966-1970	16.8	12.8
Year 1971	16.5	12.4
Year 1970	18.8	14.0
Increase or decrease in 1971 on 5 years average 1966-70	-0.3	-0.4
Change on Previous Year	-2.3	-1.6

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis)

All cases kept at home. No deaths.

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES	Age Groups					
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-
Measles	30	3	3	1	8	9	6
Whooping Cough	3	1	-	1	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	2



SANITARY ADMINISTRATION  
BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEALTH, CLEANSING AND SEWAGE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Councillor J. Edmondson.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Councillor Mrs. Woodhead.

COUNCILLORS: Mrs. Arnold, D. Brown, H. Brown, Clegg, Gregory,  
Mrs. Hodge, Marsh, Greenwood, Mrs. Rawlinson and  
Sutcliffe.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH: Dr. Arthur Barlow, M.B., Ch.B.

PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR: John S. Haworth.  
Certificate of R.S.H. and S.I.E.J.B.  
R.S.H. Certificate for Inspection of Meat  
and Other Foods, Smoke Inspector, Sanitary  
Science, etc.

DUTIES: All matters coming within the purview of a  
Public Health Inspector including supervision  
of refuse collection. Appointed as Officer  
under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises  
Act. Appointed as an Officer under the Shops  
Act by the County Council.

WATER SUPPLY: Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply  
of water from the mains of the North Calder  
Water Board and there were no new sources of  
supply during the year. All dwellinghouses  
within the District except one are supplied  
direct from public mains. The one exception,  
which is supplied by spring water, is an  
isolated farm dwelling and is a considerable  
distance from the nearest public main.

SUPPLIES TO HOUSES: The number of houses supplied direct from  
public mains is 3,028.

WATER SAMPLING: Public Mains:  
The water was samples frequently by the  
Board's Officers and found to be satisfactory.  
Six samples taken by the Department were also  
found to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS: There are no Swimming Baths or Pools within  
the District.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL: The sewage is carried by gravity feed to the  
Disposal works at the lowest part of the  
District. Treatment is by means of screens,  
detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary  
filters and humus tanks. The effluent from  
the works is discharged into Pendle Water.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

Number of Privy  
Middens: NIL

Number of Pail  
Closets: There are two only, at isolated dwellings,  
emptied weekly by Council employees. Plans  
are in hand for their conversion.

Number of Fresh  
Water Closets 2,747



CLOSET ACCOMMODATION (Cont.)

Number of Waste  
Water Closets 457

Conversions during the year:

Number of Pail Closets to fresh water closets	NIL
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets	23
Number of houses on water carriage system	3028

Chief Sanitary requirement of the District:

Continued action of the conversion of waste water closets.  
Improvement of the many old dwellinghouses which require hot water, baths and other amenities.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

This is carried out by direct labour, with a 50 cu.yd. Eagle Crushload vehicle. Refuse is collected weekly from domestic premises, shops, factories etc., twice weekly from fish shops etc., and disposed of at the Nelson tip by arrangement with the Borough Council.

Number of Moveable Ashbins - 3,245.

<u>INSPECTIONS MADE</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Number of complaints received and investigated (not including complaints re refuse collection service)	437	322
Number of complaints received and dealt with re refuse collection service and blocked street gullies	24	21
Number of requests for additional collections	771	598
Visits to Smoke Control Area	277	693
Sanitary accommodation etc., in factories and workshops	26	27
Bakehouses	12	10
Unfit Food	8	3
Food preparation premises (not bakehouses)	139	149
Complaints/re-visits	681	539
Infectious Diseases Enquiries/Food Poisoning	5	9
Public Sanitary Accommodation	24	20
Council Houses	35	19
Water Supplies	28	19
Housing Act, Inspections	220	74
Interviews Owners etc.	74	47
Rats/Mice	110	96
Other Infestations	18	4
Noise Nuisances	20	6
O.S.R.P. Act	69	59
Shops Acts	244	358
Schools	9	4
Refuse Accumulations, Tips, Dustbins	837	574
Drains Tested	28	20
Informal Notices Served	157	149
Informal Notices Remedied	164	143
Formal Notices Served	24	25
Formal Notices Remedied	24	17

DISINFESTATION:

Complaints were received of infestation by cockroaches from 18 dwellinghouses. These were treated by a servicing firm. Complaints of caterpillars, wasps, bugs and fleas were also dealt with. The bugs/fleas were dealt with by spraying and fumigation.

## CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS:

There are no caravans or sites licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936 and no licenses have been applied for under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

## PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

The two establishments registered under this Act were maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition. One closed during the year.

## H O U S I N G

### CONDITION:

Most of the houses are stone built in terraces and about 80% of them are owner occupied. The majority are well maintained but there are some falling slowly into a state of disrepair. Amenities in these older houses are lacking. The more recently built brick houses include detached bungalows and semi-detached houses.

### BACK TO BACK HOUSES:

There are 16 such houses, mainly owner/occupied, well maintained and in very good condition.

### NEW BUILDINGS:

During the year sixty houses were completed by private enterprise.

### OVER-CROWDING:

No new cases were reported during the year, and none was proved. The situation in some of the houses occupied by Pakistanis is somewhat obscure.

## INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1.
  - a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts. 196
  - b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made. 392
  - c) Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit. 34
2. Total number of dwellings existing at the end of year which were unfit for human habitation, and not capable, at reasonable expense, of being rendered fit and in respect of which -
  - a) Demolition, Clearance and Closing Orders have been made (at any time) 13
  - b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made 8

REPAIRS DURING THE YEAR

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| a) | Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. | 13 |
| b) | Houses in which defects were remedied (other than unfit houses made fit).  | 84 |

HOUSING ACT 1969 - STANDARD GRANTS

	Number of Schemes Submitted.	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected
To Full Standard	61	61
Work Completed	50	50

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY:

The number of Distributors is as follows:-

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| a) | Dairies in the District                  | 3  |
| b) | Premises outside the District            | 7  |
| c) | Shops in the District other than Dairies | 26 |

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and thus responsible for the issue of Licences.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in operation within the District.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of Food Premises in the District at the end of 1971 was as follows:-

<u>TYPE OF BUSINESS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
General Grocers	20
Greengrocers & Fruiterers (Incl. wet fish)	6
Butchers and Cooked Meats	11
Bakers	6
Confectioners	2
Fried Fish Shops	5
Sugar Confectionery, Ice Cream, Minerals etc.	6
Licensed Hotels/Clubs	15

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Particulars of inspections made under this Act are given at the bottom of the next page.

# ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Number of factory chimneys in the District	6
Observations taken during the year	4
Smoke nuisances discovered	2

Work on No.5 Area continued during the year. No.5 Area which includes 64 Council owned flats/houses/bungalows, 829 private dwellings, 3 commercial premises, 1 lock-up shop and seven other premises will come into force in 1972.

## RODENT CONTROL

The sewer manholes were treated after test baiting.

The following properties were treated:-

Properties treated following notification and found to be infested by:-	a) Rats	38
	b) Mice	157

Properties inspected for reasons other than notification.	52
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In addition, the Council's properties (tips and buildings) were regularly inspected and baited.

## PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

### Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Regist.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occu-piers Pros-ecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not incl. in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	26	26	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	26	26	-	-

2. DEFECTS: No defects were found.
3. OUTWORKERS: Sections 110 and 111. The notified Outworkers were visited. Conditions were satisfactory

C O M M E N T

GENERAL:

Again it must be said that abandoned vehicles have continued to cause difficulties and notwithstanding the Council's considerable efforts to remove beds, furniture etc., the problems of "dumpers" remains.

Joint meetings have continued to be held with neighbouring authorities regarding the provision of an Incinerator.

A separate report was issued on the operation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and is reproduced below.

Records under the Factories Act continue to need attention although complete inspections were made.

Reports of Rats, mice and cockroaches are referred to the Pest Control section of Rentokil Laboratories Limited. Prompt attention is given to all complaints. This firm also undertakes the sewer treatments.

ICE CREAM:

61 Samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year. Of these:-

39	were Grade 1
7	were Grade 2
6	were Grade 3
9	were Grade 4

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT:

The number of premises on the register shows little change on the previous year.

Computerisation has resulted in a slight reduction in bank employees.

One Shop closed on the business being transferred.

There was one accident reported in 1971 when a bar assistant bruised her leg on falling. The floor covering was in excellent condition and no further action was taken.

SMOKE CONTROL:

No.5 Area submitted in 1969 will come into force in 1972. Work on conversions in this area continues.

The number of premises in the five areas is as follows:-

No.1 223, No.2 270, No.3 258, No.4 281, No.5 863.

HOUSING:

Undertakings have been accepted in respect of some of the houses closed after action under the Housing Act, but a few remain, gradually getting worse and causing grave dissatisfaction to the neighbours. The Council is not unmindful of the situation and towards the end of the year plans to deal with some of these properties were in hand.



REFUSE COLLECTION:

The improvement mentioned in previous reports due to the use of the new vehicle has continued. Collection is much quicker and there has been a considerable reduction in the number of complaints of failure to empty bins.

In 1966, there were 375 complaints of failure to empty bins, in 1967, 241: in 1968, 151: in 1969, 42: in 1970, 27 and in 1971, 6. Some of these complaints are due to bins being improperly used for heavy builders refuse, some to the use of tubs without handles and to defective dangerous bins. Such receptacles are now reported and action is taken to ensure the provision of a standard bin in good order.

The Council continues, at considerable expense, to remove unwanted articles. This service is not always appreciated and even though for the most part it is free, people continue to dump unwanted furniture and other unwanted material in most difficult places. A similar statement has been made in previous years and it is unfortunate that it must be repeated.

In 1966, there were 537 requests for additional collections, in 1967, 424: in 1968, 578: in 1969, 554: in 1970, 598 and in 1971, 770.

CONCLUSION:

The co-operation given to the Health Department by the Surveyor, other members of the Council's staff, the Engineer to the Water Board, the Cleansing Departments of Burnley and Nelson and the staff of the County Council's Brierfield Clinic is here gratefully acknowledged.

J. S. HAWORTH,

Public Health Inspector.

May, 1972.





